

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY AF/EX:RTSALAZAR:RCS
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P 220104Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM RICHARD T.SALAZAR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AFSP EAID UV

SUBJECT: NIAMEY JAO STAFFING

1. ON APRIL 11 I SUBMITTED TO SAM THORNBURG A MEMO CONCERNING STAFFING OF THE NIAMEY JAO. A COPY OF THE MEMO IS ON ITS WAY TO YOU BY POUCH. IN VIEW OF YOUR CABLE RECEIVED TODAY CONCERNING THE ASSIGNMENT OF MR. O'NEILL, I THOUGHT I SHOULD SEND YOU BY CABLE THE CONTENTS OF MY MEMO TO THORNBURG.

BEGIN QUOTE: SINCE NIAMEY WAS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED A JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE (JAO), I HAVE ATTEMPTED, UNSUCCESSFULLY, TO REGULARIZE THE STAFFING OF THE JAO. THE STILL UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS ARE AS FOLLOWS: 1) ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1977 WHEN NIAMEY BECAME A JAO, FOUR (4) A.I.D. POSITIONS WERE TO BE TRANSFERRED OFFICIALLY TO THE STATE COMPLEMENT: THE FORMER EXECUTIVE OFFICER POSITION, THE TWO
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(2) CURRENT A.I.D. GSO POSITIONS AND THE PERSONNEL OFFICER POSITION. WHEN MR. HERTER WAS ASSIGNED AS JAO CHIEF, HE HAD TO BE SLOTTED AGAINST THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER POSITION. THEREFORE, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO EVEN START LOOKING FOR A DEPUTY FOR MR. HERTER SINCE HE IS ENCUMBERING THAT POSITION.

2) THE TWO (2) A.I.D. GSO POSITIONS BECAME VACANT IN DECEMBER 1977. SINCE THAT TIME ONE WAS FILLED IN JANUARY, 1978 (MR. JENKINS). VARIOUS NAMES WERE MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS FOR THE STILL VACANT POSITION INCLUDING MR. O'NEILL FROM ACCRA. IN THE LATTER'S CASE, I WAS TOLD THAT ORDERS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO MR. O'NEILL TO PROCEED TO NIAMEY. (AN EARLIER PROMISE WAS THAT HE WOULD ARRIVE BY FEBRUARY 15.) HOWEVER, DURING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THIS DAY WITH AMBASSADOR JAMES, HE INFORMED ME THAT HE WAS STILL AWAITING SOME WORD ON MR. O'NEILL.

DURING THE LAST FIVE MONTHS THE NIAMEY JAO HAS NEVER BEEN STAFFED BY MORE THAN THREE (3) OF THE SIX (6) POSITIONS AUTHORIZED IN PRINCIPLE. TO OFFSET THIS 50 PER CENT VACANCY, AF/EX HAS HAD TO SUPPLY COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF TDY'ERS. HOWEVER, OUR POT IS NOW EMPTY, AND WE NO LONGER HAVE ANYONE TO SPARE.

I THINK YOU WILL AGREE THAT SOME QUICK ACTION MUST BE TAKEN TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION. I ATTACH A COPY OF A TELEGRAM SENT BY AMBASSADOR GRAHAM IN OUAGADOUGOU. UNLESS WE ARE ABLE TO PROVIDE AMBASSADOR JAMES FIRM DATES AND NAMES OF PERSONNEL, WE CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE A SIMILAR CABLE FROM NIAMEY. END QUOTE.

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2. MY REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR GRAHAM IN OUAGADOUGOU REFERS TO AN ACTION ON HIS PART WHEREBY HE HAS PLACED AN EMBARGO ON THE ASSIGNMENT AND ARRIVAL AT POST OF ANY ADDITIONAL A.I.D. EMPLOYEE UNTIL HIS JAO IS FULLY STAFFED.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE102714
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RTSALAZAR:RCS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780172-0219
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780428/aaaaaxgq.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c61554a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2881115
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIAMEY JAO STAFFING
TAGS: AFSP, EAID, UV
To: NIAMEY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c61554a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014